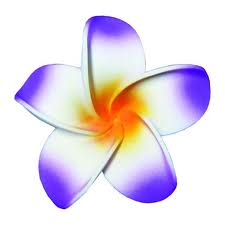
Lesona 3: Tōfā – Goodbye

22/02/2012 Wednesday

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**TEACHER’S NOTES**

* **Sharleen:** **Abbreviations –** When people converse in everyday *gagana Sāmoa* they often use abbreviated words and phrases.
  + For example instead of *tōfā* for goodbye, they may just say *fā*.
    - John: *Tōfā Sina*. Goodbye Sina.
    - Sina: *Fā John.* Bye John.



* **Tangi:** As in English, speakers of *gagana Sāmoa* have also adopted some popular idioms or slang words to use in everyday conversations.
  + Two of the most commonly used terms are ***suga*** for girl and ***sole*** for boy.
  + These are terms of endearment used in ordinary conversation between close friends and among family
* So when saying goodbye between friends, it is common to hear something like
  + *Tōfā* ***sole*** Goodbye (boy). *Fā* Bye!
  + *Tōfā* ***suga*** Goodbye (girl). *Fā* Bye!



* **Leigh: Cultural Aspects**
* Conversations are often animated, particularly among young people, and are usually accompanied by a lot of laughter.
* Often conversations are conducted without eye contact between the speakers, in fact most likely the speaker’s eyes are moving to and fro between the other person and the surroundings.
* This is quite normal and acceptable. Traditionally it was deemed disrespectful to look someone in the eye when they speak to you as this could be considered a form of threat or to be questioning authority.
* **Jacque: Implications for teaching:** 
  + In the context of New Zealand schools, when Samoan students do not look a teacher in the eye, it does not mean that they are shifty, stubborn, or arrogant, rather that they are being respectful.

Tōfā